

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information vending apparatus comprising:
accumulation means for accumulating information for
sale;

usage condition generating means for generating
usage conditions for said information for sale;

encryption means for encrypting said information
for sale;

encryption key generating means for generating a
cryptographic key which decrypts said information for
sale which is encrypted;

authentication means for authenticating a recording
medium directly or indirectly loaded on said information
vending apparatus; and

writing means for writing said encrypted
information for sale to said recording medium
authenticated by said authentication means along with
said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

2. The information vending apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising communication means for
making communication with a reproduction unit for
reproducing said information for sale recorded on said
recording medium;

wherein said authentication means further

authenticates said reproduction unit when said communication means makes communication with said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said encrypted information for sale to said recording medium through said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

3. The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is a portable medium, said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

4. The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication means makes communication with said reproduction unit which reproduces said information for sale recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said encrypted information for sale recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

5. The information vending apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable

device and said storage medium is fixedly and integrally arranged on said portable device.

6. The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a receiving means for receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein said accumulation means accumulates said information received by said receiving means.

7. The information vending apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation means.

8. The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said usage condition generating means generates said usage conditions which are followed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said information for sale recorded on said recording medium, and said encryption means encrypts said information for sale by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said information for sale.

9. The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving

picture, text data.

10. An information vending method comprising the steps of:

accumulating information for sale;

generating usage conditions for said information for sale;

encrypting said information for sale;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said information for sale which is encrypted;

authenticating a recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners; and

writing said encrypted information for sale to said recording medium authenticated in the authentication step along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

11. The information vending method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of making communication with a reproduction unit for reproducing said information for sale recorded on said recording medium;

wherein in said authentication step, said reproduction unit is further authenticated when in said communication step said reproduction unit is

communicated; and

in said writing step, said encrypted information for sale along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said recording medium through said reproduction unit.

12. The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is a portable medium, said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

13. The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein in said communication step, said reproduction unit which reproduces said information for sale recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit is communicated; and

in said writing step, said encrypted information for sale along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit.

14. The information vending method according to claim 13, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is fixedly and integrally arranged on said portable device.

15. The information vending method according to

claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein in said accumulation step, said information received by said receiving means is accumulated.

16. The information vending method according to claim 15,

wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation step.

17. The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein in said usage condition generating step, said usage conditions which are followed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said information for sale recorded on said recording medium are generated; and

in said encryption step, said information for sale by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said information for sale is encrypted.

18. The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving picture, text data.

19. A program storage medium for storing a

computer-readable program, said program comprising the steps of:

accumulating information for sale;

generating usage conditions for said information for sale;

encrypting said information for sale;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said information for sale which is encrypted;

authenticating a recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners; and

writing said encrypted information for sale to said recording medium authenticated in the authentication step along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.